

Threatened and Endangered Species in Forests of Wisconsin

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MOUNTAIN CRANBERRY

(*Vaccinium vitis-idaea*)

Federal Status : Not Listed

State Status: Endangered



Description: Mountain cranberry is a loose-formed, low-growing shrub, often no more than 6 inches tall. Its small, oval, evergreen leaves are $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ inch long; the leaves' undersides are bristled with black hairs. Its small, white, bell-shaped flowers appear in spring. Bright red edible fruits ripen in mid- to late summer. Mountain cranberry is also called cowberry or lingonberry.



Habitat: This acid-loving shrub may be found clinging to cliffs and rocky places where there are peaty soils. It grows in similar soils in bogs. The same species grows in Scandinavia in similar habitats.

Forestry Considerations: Harvesting trees near the cliffs where this shrub is found could alter the habitat, changing the moisture level in the soil or the humidity in the air. Physical disturbance of the cliff face (by log skids, sawdust or debris) should be avoided.

Following the practices described in *Wisconsin's Forestry Best Management Practices for Water Quality* should protect this plant in its bog habitats.

